Read in your language!

We all have at least one language that we understand and communicate best in, although some of us may have more! People use different labels for this language – like “mother tongue” or “home language” – but it is the language we learnt first. It is the language we think and feel in, the one in which it is easiest for us to express ourselves and communicate with others.

From birth, children hear language around them. First they understand it and then they start to use it themselves. In fact, by the time they are five years old, children’s brilliant young brains have helped them learn how to think and communicate in their home language. They do still need plenty of opportunities to hear and use their language so that they know it well enough to learn increasingly difficult concepts and skills.

Being read to in your own language should not be considered a nice optional extra for children. It is really an essential and powerful part of learning language and developing literacy. When you read regularly to children in their home language(s), you give them a strong language foundation that makes all learning easier.

If you don’t understand what you are reading, then you are not really reading – no matter how well you can say the words on the page! So, because understanding is at the heart of reading, children need to listen to stories being read in their home language. They can then concentrate completely on the flow of the story instead of struggling to understand a language they don’t know well yet.

Good stories are full of creative language that stimulates our imaginations and gets us thinking about how to solve problems. Authors carefully pick words and phrases that unlock the worlds they are creating for their readers. Like a hearty soup provides goodness to nourish our bodies, reading great stories provides goodness to nourish our minds. They inspire children to read in their home language and, when you, as a learner, set an example, they will begin to read stories in other languages too.

Bala ka puo ya hao!

Hangata bohle re na le bonyane puo e le nngwe eo re e utlwisisang le ho hokahana ka yona hantle ka ho fetisisa, leha ba bang ba rona ba ena le tse ngta! Batho ba sebedisa dilebale tse fapaneng bakeng sa puo ena – jwaloja “puo ya letswele” kapa “puo ya lapeng” – empa ke puo eo re e ithutileng ka yona pele. Ke puo eo re nahanang le ho le maikutlo ka yona, eo ka yona ho leng bonolo ho rona le hifumwahatsa le ho buisana le batho ba bang.

Ho tloha ha ba tswalwa, bana ba utlwa puo moo ba phelang. Ba qala ka ho e utlwisisa puo me ebe ba qala ho e sebedisa ka bobana. Hantlentle, ha ba tlhilo alemoney tse hilo, dikello tsa bana tse Hleileleng hhalo tse nyane di ba thusa ho naana le ho hokahana ka puo ya bono ya lapeng. Ba ntse ba hlio ka menyelisa mengay ta ho utlwa le ho sebedisa puo ya bono le hore ba tle le ba le secana hoo ka ia ithutileng ditse nghi tse sebedisa puo yo re boledi.

Ho bailwa ka puo ya heno ho ha ho a tshekoletse hilo hilo o le kgetho feela e ntle e ka etswang bakeng sa bana. Hantlentle ke karolo e hlakosile le e matla ya ho ithutho puo le ho aha tsebo ya ho bale le ho aha tsebo ya ho bale. Ha o dula a ballo ba bokgoni ho kgetho ho ho matla ya ho nala ya ho bale. Ha o dula a tse thi bo lona ya ho bonolo.

Hlohoa o sa utlwisisese o se o sebalang, e tla ba ka boebo o se ntle o sa bale – ho sa kgathallele hore o le sebalang e kgetho ho le sebalang e kgetho ho le sebalang e kgetho. Ha ba ka tshego ho maikutlo ka ho lo nga holo ho mga gana ho bonolo ya, bono ka ho lo nga holo ho mga gana ho bonolo ya, bono ka ho lo nga holo ho mga gana ho bonolo ya. Hwale ba ka ba hloko ho mamele ha dipale di ba dipale di ba dipale di ba dipale. Hwale ba ka ba hloko ho mamele ha dipale di ba dipale di ba dipale di ba dipale.

Dipale tse monate di fihle puo ya boiqapelo e tseokeng tsebona sebona sebona sebona sebona sebona. Ha ba ka bo modimo ho eho e ho bale – ho sa kgathallele hore o le sebalang e kgetho ho le sebalang e kgetho ho le sebalang e kgetho. Ha ba ka bo dipale di ba dipale di ba dipale di ba dipale. Ha ba ka bo dipale di ba dipale di ba dipale di ba dipale.

International
Mother Tongue Day is
celebrated across the world
on 21 February every year. Share a
story or two with your children on this
day using your mother tongue!

Letshatla la Matjhaba la Puo ya Lapeng
le ketekwa lefatshe ka bohoro ka la
21 Hlakola selemo le selemo. Arolelana
pale kopa tse pedi mmmoho le
dicho ka heso ka le hokahana le
sebedisa puo ya tseba ya
lapeng!
**Your story**

Here is a praise poem originally written in isiXhosa. It is about a pet dog. Enjoy!

Qumezakhe, I am proud of you!

You have long and wide ears
With a long tail.
You are black
Like a night without the moon
Your name is Qumezakhe
You have fluffy hair.

I’m proud of you.
You are cuddly.
When you walk, you prance
You never disappoint when you are hunting:
Even the jackal’s cunning tricks
Do not succeed with you!
You recognise my voice as you approach our homestead.

You help with my father’s livestock:
When the goats head off for the fields,
I call you only once, “Qumezakhe, after them!”
You run fast
To round them up.
I am very proud of my dog.

Chuma Sitofu, 9 years, Ihobe Intermediate School, Bloemfontein

This poem was written in isiXhosa and then translated into English.

**Pale ya hao**

Ena ke thotokiso eo pele e neng e ngotswe ka puo ya isiXhosa. Yona e mabapi le ntja ya lapeng. Natefelwa ke yona!

Baile, ke motlotlo ka wena!

O na le disebe tse telêle tse sephara
Ka motlotlo o motelele.
O mafa
J wratha bosu bo hlokonang kgwedi
Botsa ia hao o Baile.
O na le moniri o banalo.

Ke motlotlo ka wena.
O tshwarela ho monate.
Ha o tsamaya o o sasanka
Ha o ke o ntsibwanise o o tsaona
Ke re le maqheka a phokojwe
Ho wena mona ha a tsvelte!
O lemohoa lentswe le ka ka o atamela lapeng

Ke re le maqheka a phokojwe

O a thusa le ka mehlela ya ntate.
Ha dipodi di tswa ho ya nakheng.
Ke o bitsa hang feela, “Baile, ho bano!”
O mafa lebelo
Ho di bokelele:
Ke motlotlo haholo ka ntja ya ka.

Chuma Sitofu, ya alema tse 9, Ihobe Intermediate School, Bloemfontein

Thotokiso ena e ne e ngotswe ka isiXhosa mme ya fetolelwa Sesotho.

**Do you enjoy writing and drawing?**

Are you an adult who writes for children? Or, are you a child who enjoys writing poems or stories, or drawing pictures and then writing about them? We’d love to see what you’ve been doing! If you send us your writing and pictures, you stand a chance of having them published in the Nal’ibali supplement, or on the Nal’ibali website. Remember: it has to be all your own work!

Send your writing and pictures to: info@nalibali.co.za or PRAESA, Suite 17−201, Building 17, Waverley Business Park, Wyecroft Road, Mowbray, 7700.

**Na a natefelwa ke ho ngola le ho taka?**

Na a motho e moholo ya ngollang bana? Kopa o ngwana ya natelewang ke ho ngola ditshwantsho kapa dipale, kopa ya takang ditshwantsho ebe o ngola ka tsana? Re ka rato ho bano se o neng e ntse e se etsa! Haebë o ke re romella sengolwa sa hao le ditshwantsho, ho na le monyelita wø wø di phatlalatswe flateleleng ya Na’ibali, kopa webseleleng ya Na’ibali. Hopola: masebetsi oabale e lokela ho ba wa hao!

Romela sengolwa sa hao le ditshwantsho ho: info@nalibali.co.za kapa PRAESA, Suite 17−201, Building 17, Waverley Business Park, Wyecroft Road, Mowbray, 7700.

**Nal’ibali on radio!**

Enjoy listening to stories in Sesotho and in English on Nal’ibali’s radio show:

Lesedi FM on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9.45 a.m. to 10.00 a.m.

SAfM on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 1.50 p.m. to 2.00 p.m.

**Nal’ibali radyo!**

Natefelwa ke ho mamela dipale ka Sesotho le Senyesemane lenaneeng ka radyo ka Nal’ibali:

Lesedi FM ka Mantaha, Laboraro le Labohlano ho thla ho 9.45 a.m. ho fihlela ka 10.00 a.m.

SafM ka Mantaha, Laboraro le Labohlano ho thla ho 1.50 p.m. ho fihlela ka 2.00 p.m.
Nal’ibali is a national reading-for-enjoyment campaign to spark children’s potential through storytelling and reading. For more information, visit www.nalibali.org or www.nalibali.mobi.

© Jacana Media (South African rights only) Tel: (011 628 3200)


The Cool Nguni
Kgomo e ntle ya Nguni

Maryanne Bester
Shayle Bester

Nal’ibali is a national reading-for-enjoyment campaign to spark children’s potential through storytelling and reading. For more information, visit www.nalibali.org or www.nalibali.mobi.

© Jacana Media (South African rights only) Tel: (011 628 3200)


The Cool Nguni
Kgomo e ntle ya Nguni

Maryanne Bester
Shayle Bester

Nal’ibali is a national reading-for-enjoyment campaign to spark children’s potential through storytelling and reading. For more information, visit www.nalibali.org or www.nalibali.mobi.

© Jacana Media (South African rights only) Tel: (011 628 3200)


The Cool Nguni
Kgomo e ntle ya Nguni

Maryanne Bester
Shayle Bester

Nal’ibali is a national reading-for-enjoyment campaign to spark children’s potential through storytelling and reading. For more information, visit www.nalibali.org or www.nalibali.mobi.

© Jacana Media (South African rights only) Tel: (011 628 3200)


The Cool Nguni
Kgomo e ntle ya Nguni

Maryanne Bester
Shayle Bester

Nal’ibali is a national reading-for-enjoyment campaign to spark children’s potential through storytelling and reading. For more information, visit www.nalibali.org or www.nalibali.mobi.

© Jacana Media (South African rights only) Tel: (011 628 3200)


The Cool Nguni
Kgomo e ntle ya Nguni

Maryanne Bester
Shayle Bester

Nal’ibali is a national reading-for-enjoyment campaign to spark children’s potential through storytelling and reading. For more information, visit www.nalibali.org or www.nalibali.mobi.

© Jacana Media (South African rights only) Tel: (011 628 3200)


The Cool Nguni
Kgomo e ntle ya Nguni

Maryanne Bester
Shayle Bester

Nal’ibali is a national reading-for-enjoyment campaign to spark children’s potential through storytelling and reading. For more information, visit www.nalibali.org or www.nalibali.mobi.

© Jacana Media (South African rights only) Tel: (011 628 3200)


The Cool Nguni
Kgomo e ntle ya Nguni

Maryanne Bester
Shayle Bester

Nal’ibali is a national reading-for-enjoyment campaign to spark children’s potential through storytelling and reading. For more information, visit www.nalibali.org or www.nalibali.mobi.

© Jacana Media (South African rights only) Tel: (011 628 3200)


The Cool Nguni
Kgomo e ntle ya Nguni

Maryanne Bester
Shayle Bester

Nal’ibali is a national reading-for-enjoyment campaign to spark children’s potential through storytelling and reading. For more information, visit www.nalibali.org or www.nalibali.mobi.

© Jacana Media (South African rights only) Tel: (011 628 3200)


The Cool Nguni
Kgomo e ntle ya Nguni

Maryanne Bester
Shayle Bester

Nal’ibali is a national reading-for-enjoyment campaign to spark children’s potential through storytelling and reading. For more information, visit www.nalibali.org or www.nalibali.mobi.

© Jacana Media (South African rights only) Tel: (011 628 3200)


The Cool Nguni
Kgomo e ntle ya Nguni

Maryanne Bester
Shayle Bester

Nal’ibali is a national reading-for-enjoyment campaign to spark children’s potential through storytelling and reading. For more information, visit www.nalibali.org or www.nalibali.mobi.

© Jacana Media (South African rights only) Tel: (011 628 3200)


The Cool Nguni
Kgomo e ntle ya Nguni

Maryanne Bester
Shayle Bester

Nal’ibali is a national reading-for-enjoyment campaign to spark children’s potential through storytelling and reading. For more information, visit www.nalibali.org or www.nalibali.mobi.

© Jacana Media (South African rights only) Tel: (011 628 3200)


The Cool Nguni
Kgomo e ntle ya Nguni

Maryanne Bester
Shayle Bester
Little Nguni Calf was worried. ‘I’m not cool enough,’ he said to Mama Nguni Cow.

Namane e nyane ya Nguni e ne e kgathasehile. ‘Nna ha ke motle,’ ya rialo ho Mme Kgomo ya Nguni.


Nguni Calf smiled.

‘COOL NGUNI!’ he said.


… Kgomo YA MOHLOLO!’ ha rialo Mme Kgomo ya Nguni.

Namane ya Nguni ya bososela. ‘KGOMO E NTLE YA NGUNI!’ ya rialo.
Those cattle from over the sea – they’re cool.
The Longhorn cattle from the wild, Wild West.
YEE-HAH! That’s cool!’

‘Mmmmm,’ said Mama Nguni Cow.


‘Mmuuuu!’ ha rialo Mme Kgomo ya Nguni.
‘The Brahman cattle from India. Velvet cattle.
Sacred cattle. OMMMM! That’s cool!’ said Little Nguni Calf.


‘The Highland cattle from Scotland. Shaggy cattle. Craggy cattle. OCH-AYE! That’s cool!’

‘Mmmmm,’ said Mama Nguni Cow.

‘Now look at you and me. I am “Stones of the Ngoye Forest”. You have seen the little stones that lie on the pathways between the trees – see them scattered across my arm!
And you, you are “Gaps Between the Branches”. When you rest in the shade of a tree, the sun makes shadows. The gaps between the branches shine brightly and make many interesting shapes. Just look at the shapes on your hide! Aren’t you glad we can’t wash them off?’

‘Jwale sheba nna le wena. Ke “Majwe a Moru wa Ngoye”. O bone majwana a qhalaneng pela tsela dipakeng tsa difate – a bone a hasane ho phatlalla le sephaka sa ka!
Mme wena, o “Mahlasedi dipakeng tsa Makala”. Ha o phomotse meriting ya difate, letsatsi le etsa meriti. Mahlasedi dipakeng tsa difate a kganya ka kganya e kgolo mme a etsa matheba a mangata a dibopho tse kgahlehang. Sheba matheba a letlalong la hao! Ha o thabe hobane re ke ke ra a hlakola ka ho a hlatswa?’


‘Mmuuuu!’ ha rialo Mme Kgomo ya Nguni.

‘Kwedi sheba le wena. Ke “Majwe a Moru wa Ngoye”. O bone majwana a qhalaneng pela tsela dipakeng tsa difate – a bone a hasane ho phatlalla le sephaka sa ka!
Mme wena, o “Mahlasedi dipakeng tsa Makala”. Ha o phomotse meriting ya difate, letsatsi le etsa meriti. Mahlasedi dipakeng tsa difate a kganya ka kganya e kgolo mme a etsa matheba a mangata a dibopho tse kgahlehang. Sheba matheba a letlalong la hao! Ha o thabe hobane re ke ke ra a hlakola ka ho a hlatswa?’
Get story active!

Here are some activities based on the story, The Cool Nguni, for you and your children to try.

As you read the story together

- Make comments and ask open-ended questions that help your children explore the story. For example, after reading page 1, you could say, “I wonder what made Little Nguni Calf think he wasn’t cool enough. Can you think what might have happened?”
- Draw your children’s attention to the details in the illustrations. For example:
  - talk together about how the cows on pages 3, 4 and 5 look similar in some ways and different in others
  - spend time finding the patterns on the cows on pages 8 to 13 that are described in the words on these pages.

After you have read the story

- Talk together about what it means to be “cool”. Ask, “Who decides what is ‘cool’? Why do these people get to make this decision? Is that fair?”
- Ask your children to describe some of the things that make them special or “cool”. Tell them what you think makes them special.
- Encourage your children to write a list called “10 things that make me cool”. Let older children write for themselves – even if they don’t always get the spelling and punctuation correct! Help younger children with their lists by writing down the words they tell you. Display your children’s list in their bedrooms or on the fridge!

Here’s an idea…

- Cut out and colour in the picture of Hope and then paste it on a large sheet of paper. Next draw a thought bubble above Hope’s head. Then draw a picture inside the thought bubble to show Hope thinking about competing in her next karate competition.
- Or, keep the picture in a safe place and when you have collected all the Nal’ibali characters, use them to create your own Nal’ibali poster!

Collect the Nal’ibali characters

Cut out and keep all your favourite Nal’ibali characters and then use them to create your own pictures, posters, stories or anything else you can think of!

About Hope
Age: 10
Friends: Neo, Josh
Favourite fruit: bananas
Favourite sport: karate

Books she likes: novels about the daily lives of children her own age, and information books about wild animals or karate.

Mabapi le Hope
Dilema: 10
Metswatile: Neo le Josh
Tholwana ea o e ratisisang: dipanana
Papadi ea o e ratisisang: karate

Dibuka tsee o di ratang: dinobole tse mabapi le mphelo a kamehlo a bana ba lekangang le yena ka dilemo, le dibuka tsa thlhosoleseeding tse mabapi le dipholotse tse hlahla kopa karate.

Eba mahlahalahla bakeng sa pale!

Tsena ke diketaahala tse thelweng hodima pale ena, Kgomo e ntle ya Nguni, tseo o ka di lekang mmoho le bana ba hao.

Ha le ntle le bala pale mmoho

- Tshwaela mme o botse dipotso tse bulehleng tse thuang bana ba hao ho sibolla pale. Ho etsa mohlola, kamora ho bala leleqebe le 1, o ka re, “Ke a ipotsa here ebe ke eng e entseng hore Nguni e. Monyane wo Hamane o nhane hore ho a ‘khulu’. Ho a ko nhana hore ebe ho ba ke be e ho etshothese eng?”
- Etsa hore bana ba hao ba hlea dielle lena ditlhwaneng. Mohlola:
  - buisangam kangam dikgomo tse leleqebe la 3, la 4 la la 5 di tshwanang ka teng ka tsela tse iseng le kamo di tseang ditlhweneng tse dinge
  - nkang na e iseng le batlana le dipaterone tse dikgomoneng tse leleqebe la 8 ho isa ho la 13 tse Mafatsatsweng mantsweng a mapeheng ao.

Kamora hoba le badile pale

- Kopere bana ba hao ho hla losa tse dinge tsa dintho tse ba e tseng hore ba kgethehe kopa ba ka ‘khulu’. Ba bolekile hore wena o nhana hore ke eng e ba e tseng hore ba kgethehe.
- Kgotshaletho bana ba hao ho nagela lena le bisebeng “dintho tse 10 tse nketsang hore ke ba ‘khulu’. E re bana ba bhalwane bana ba ingolettse ka babona – leha ka nako tse dinge ba sa pelete hantle le ho ngola mathswa a puso hantle! Thusa bana ba banye nyane ka manane a bana ba ho ngala Mantse ao ba o boleliang ona. Maneha manane a bana ba hao dikamareng tsa bana ba hao robala kopa hodima sehatsetsi!”

Here’s an idea…

- Cut out and colour in the picture of Hope and then paste it on a large sheet of paper. Next draw a thought bubble above Hope’s head. Then draw a picture inside the thought bubble to show Hope thinking about competing in her next karate competition.
- Or, keep the picture in a safe place and when you have collected all the Nal’ibali characters, use them to create your own Nal’ibali poster!

Mohopo le ona…

- Seha o ntho e ba o kenyen mabola setshwentsweng sa Hope mme o se manamise leleqebe le lelokaladi. Kamora maa taka puludana ya monanana ho hodima higho ya Hope. Jwale taka setshwentsweng ka hara puludana yo ya monanana ho bana hase hase Hope o nhana hore ka ho ba bhhodinang ya karate.
- Kopere, baleka setshwentsweng se o sesekang se bokellelele le hulehleng mme ha o se o bokellelele balehelele ba Nal’ibali, ba sebedise bo bopa phosetsho ya hao ya Nal’ibali!
Malusi and the Bath Monster

(Paragraph 1)

by Leo Daly

Every word that follows is true. Cross my heart that I won’t lie, and if I do I’ll eat a fly!

My older sister, Zandi, and I like to play in the garden. We stamp around in the mud and dig deep holes. Bare feet are best. You get to feel the mud squishing up between your toes!

Malusi says, “Ai, you two! Only pigs like mud that much.” But it’s okay, because there’s nothing better than a warm bath after playing in the garden.

Zandi is worse than me – much worse. I just get my hands and feet dirty. Zandi gets everything dirty. She jumps right into the holes and rolls around in the mud. She gets her hair and arms dirty. She even gets her nose dirty.

Malusi says, “It’s bath time you two!”

But Zandi won’t come inside. “Malusi,” she says to me, “I’m staying right here – in this hole!”

I tell her that she’ll have to come inside for a bath, but Zandi just shakes her head.

But I love all the soapy bubbles. I scrub the dirt off my feet. I scrub and scrub. Next I clean my face. That feels so good.

Then Zandi walks in. She’s still dirty all over. “Malusi,” she says, “aren’t you scared of the Bath Monster?”

“There’s no such thing as a Bath Monster,” I laugh.

“Oh yes, there is,” says Zandi. “It comes up through the plug hole and has three arms and four eyes and it’s always hungry.” I think Zandi is just teasing him.

“Will you tell me something,” says Zandi, “there’s nothing the Bath Monster can do to you – because there’s nothing that you can do to him.”

Now I’m just a little bit scared. Maybe there really is a Bath Monster.

Zandi gives me a big smile. “Okay, Malusi. Enjoy your bath – but don’t get eaten up!” She walks out of the bathroom and goes straight to bed. She’s okay, because there’s nothing better than a warm bath after playing in the garden.

Do you think there really is a Bath Monster? Find out next week if Malusi ever gets to meet it, or whether Zandi is just teasing him.